

**Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)**  
**Assistive Technology (AT) Committee Meeting Minutes**  
August 18, 2021

**Members Present**

Bea Shapiro, Chair  
Bob Kresmer  
Sue LeHew  
Nathan Pullen  
Terri Hedgpeth  
Dr. Carlos Grandela

**Members Absent**

Mark Nelson  
Karla Rivas-Parker

**Staff Present**

Lindsey Powers

**Guests Present**

Christine Tuttle

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**Call to Order and Introductions**

Bea Shapiro, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made, and a quorum was present.

**Approval of June 16, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

Bob Kresmer motioned to approve the June 16, 2021, meeting minutes. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by unanimous voice vote.

**VRATE Presentation Discussion**

Bea Shapiro stated that Christine Tuttle would be able to provide an update regarding the committee's presentation at the Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE). Bea Shapiro stated the AER would not support educational credits because VRATE was not a member of the agency, although the committee was hoping to offer CRC credits for individuals attending the presentation. Sue LeHew stated that Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) typically provided ASL interpreters and

Support Service Providers (SSP)s for VRATE and inquired whether that would be considered sponsorship. Sue LeHew stated that if RSA was considered a sponsor of VRATE, the logo could be added to the VRATE website, and the agency could then offer CRC credits. Christine Tuttle stated that would be considered sponsorship, and RSA could be added as a sponsor under the in-kind donations. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the individuals or organizations that planned VRATE. Christine Tuttle stated the VRATE Board included representatives from RSA, SAAVI Services for the Blind, the Arizona Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ACBVI) and private citizens that provided donations. Ms. Tuttle stated she was not familiar with the accreditation process, although the VRATE Board was seeking an individual that knew more about that process.

Bea Shapiro inquired whether Dr. Carlos Grandela's presentation had been approved by the Ophthalmology Association. Dr. Carlos Grandela stated the first presentation had been approved for credits for optometrists, and he would submit the second presentation for ophthalmology credits. Dr. Carlos Grandela stated he completed the second presentation and would make any necessary changes prior to submitting for final approval by mid-September. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee members would have time to review the presentation individually and send any feedback to Bea Shapiro. Bea Shapiro stated that committee members could send their feedback to her within the next week. Bob Kresmer inquired regarding the date of VRATE. Christine Tuttle stated VRATE would be November 19<sup>th</sup>. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the committee could record the presentation at the Talking Book Library. Christine Tuttle stated that she could inquire with Janet Fisher. Bea Shapiro inquired whether the Department of Economic Security (DES) would assist the committee with recording the presentation. Nathan Pullen stated he could inquire with the DES Public Information Officer (PIO) and let the committee know. Christine Tuttle stated that VRATE just needed a clean recording with good lighting and sound. Bea Shapiro inquired when VRATE would need the presentation recordings. Christine Tuttle stated that VRATE would like to receive the presentation recordings in September. Bob Kresmer stated the committee could use the facility that was able to assist the committee the quickest. Sue LeHew stated she received information regarding the CRCC credit, which would require a copy of the agenda with the session timeframes outlined and a copy of the program evaluation by October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **AT Outreach Update**

Bea Shapiro stated that AT Committee members had completed the first podcast recording and was waiting to hear back from Andrea Pasquale regarding any required edits. Christine Tuttle stated she sent a copy of the

recording to Ms. Shapiro and Mr. Kresmer. Bea Shapiro inquired whether Terri Hedgpeth would be willing to participate on the AT Outreach Workgroup and noted that Ms. Hedgpeth had expertise that could be shared on a podcast. Bea Shapiro noted the committee would discuss the Talking Book Library, BARD, and VRATE, and would need to identify additional podcast topics. Terri Hedgpeth stated she would be able to participate on the workgroup. Christine Tuttle stated the first podcast briefly discussed BARD and she would discuss BARD more in the second podcast. Ms. Tuttle stated that if any committee members knew of any quirks with BARD to let her know, and she could address those during the podcast. Terri Hedgpeth stated she knew of some quirks and would send those to Christine Tuttle.

### **AT Trends**

Terri Hedgpeth stated she was participating in the Talking Book Library's pilot program for the Humanware Brilliant 20-cell display. Ms. Hedgpeth stated the device was very cute and opened like a book. She noted the display was a sleek unit and was easy to read on and learn how to use. Terri Hedgpeth stated she had also purchased a Mantis 40-cell Braille display with a Qwerty keyboard with built in Wi-Fi and basic note-taking functions but did not include a browser.

### **Agenda and Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Assistive Technology Committee was scheduled for October 27, 2021. Agenda items are as follows:

- VRATE Presentation Update
- AT Outreach Update
- AT Trends

### **Announcements**

Bob Kresmer stated the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) State Conference would be held virtually from September 2-5 and individuals could register on the NFBA website at <https://az.nfb.org/>.

### **Public Comment**

A call to the public was made with no response's forthcoming.

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Bob Kresmer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Nathan Pullen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.